This plan was developed by the North Dakota Economic Development Foundation, a private sector advisory group charged by the Legislature to advise the Governor and the Department of Commerce on strategies to improve the state’s competitiveness and increase economic growth. This plan is an update but also provides some new elements from the 2010-2020 North Dakota Economic Development Foundation Strategic Plan.

The North Dakota Economic Development Foundation selected Integrity Partners to lead a strategic planning session on June 20, 2017. The effort considered stakeholder feedback as well as topics and measures collected during a Governor’s Cabinet planning session in June.

The Economic Development Foundation Strategic Plan seeks to create continuity on economic development initiatives during transitions between governors and other key state leaders and facilitate collaboration that improves the business climate and quality of life for North Dakota people. It helps to guide state and local economic development efforts by providing common direction and priorities for strategies and investments.

This plan advocates continuing the current economic development strategy focused on five targeted industries:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Emerging Technology
- Value-Added Agriculture
- Tourism
- Energy

It establishes three broad goal areas:

- Workforce
- Business Climate and Quality of Place
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The strategies and performance measures identified provide a means to evaluate progress to achieving overall goals.

Five Key Functions – North Dakota Economic Development Strategic Plan

1. Provide an assessment of North Dakota’s current economic landscape and target industries.
2. Identify key areas of opportunity.
3. Establish aggressive, yet realistic goals and benchmarks directly impacted by the Department of Commerce for the state’s future economic development.
4. Facilitate collaboration among state legislators and economic development partners, both public and private.
5. Provide continuity on economic development initiatives during transitions between governors and other key state leaders.

NORTH DAKOTA’S FUTURE

SIX ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR CONTINUED GROWTH

2. Research. Continue investing in university-based research and development conducted with the private sector that engages North Dakota in emerging technologies and work to fast-track commercialization.
3. Entrepreneurship. Embrace entrepreneurship and foster a culture of entrepreneurship where innovative, vibrant companies can thrive.
4. Workforce Development. Continue investing in statewide talent strategies that address education, training recruitment and retention to provide a 21st Century workforce to fuel long-term business growth.
5. Trade. Promote export trade by helping North Dakota businesses be competitive in the global marketplace.

SUPPORTING STRATEGY - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

GOAL 1
Develop, attract and retain the 21st Century workforce needed to support the success and growth of North Dakota’s businesses and targeted industries.

OBJECTIVES

1. Support enhanced workforce strategy driven by the Workforce Development Council, Department of Commerce, Job Service ND and the Labor Department that focus on resolving our near- and long-term workforce challenges.
   - Adopt a collaborative approach to delivery of workforce tactic that reduces duplication of efforts and support cross-team metrics.

2. Drive the retention and recruitment of workforce through Department of Commerce marketing (image and awareness).
   - Connect students at an early age to ensure they embrace the value of North Dakota as a retention strategy.
   - Attract expatriates to return and seek opportunity in North Dakota.
   - Attract new workforce to North Dakota.
   - Work with higher education to foster alumni marketing across schools and programs.
   - Build a national network of ambassadors with the information needed to aid in recruitment of resources to North Dakota.

3. Coordination of resources across the state teams to grow North Dakota’s future
workforce.
- Close the middle skills (professional trades) gap and evolve branding to better recruit and retain workers in roles that require more than high school but less than a four-year degree.
- Drive near term solutions to industry specific needs like healthcare/nursing shortages.
- Foster Cyber/Tech Education + Jobs. The cyber security workforce gap is predicted to reach into the millions at a national level. As an emerging, but vital industry and skill set, North Dakota has an opportunity to become a leader in cyber security/ information technology educational programs and jobs.
- Engage and promote populations with barriers to employment. Target groups include people with disabilities, new Americans, Native Americans and citizens currently or formerly incarcerated.

BENCHMARKS

1-1. Number of students taking skilled trade and technical education programs.
2010: 30,753 2016: 31,712 2025 Target: 37,000
Source: State Longitudinal Data System

1-2. Percentage complete of occupational licenses and certifications reviewed.
2018: 86 licenses/certification and 60 boards 2025 Target: 75% (64/45)
Source: State Longitudinal Data System

1-3. Retention of residents/net migrations to ND.
2016: -8,003 2025 Target: +2,500
Source: North Dakota Census

1-4. Retention of graduates from North Dakota Higher Education System
2010: 1 year 40.7% 3 years 39.5% 5 years 39.2%
2015: 1 year 38.7% 3 years 33.9%
2017: 1 year 39.5% 2025 Target: 43%
Source: North Dakota University System

1-5. Influenced visitor spending due to tourism advertising. - Budget contingent
2012: $231.6M 2014: $236.4M 2016: $382.2M 2025 Target: $400M
Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce, Tourism Division – SMARI study

SUPPORTING STRATEGY – BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

GOAL 2
Position North Dakota as a global business leader and the home of vibrant businesses.

OBJECTIVES

1. Establish North Dakota’s business climate as one of the best in the nation.
   • Create an environment that supports new business opportunities, expansion of communities, revitalization of main streets and attract workforce.
   • Foster growth of both targeted industries and small business to support North Dakota’s economy.
• Recruit and support growth of businesses that bring new wealth to the state, especially in targeted industries.

2. Develop and recruit industries that complement supply chains for target industries and encourage entrepreneurial growth.
   • Continue to support business start-up, expansion and attraction.

3. Support and grow a successful public/private international trade model.
   • Support export trade growth to expand North Dakota’s global competitiveness.

BENCHMARKS

2-1. Number of business start-ups
   Source: Small Business Development Center
   2010: 10,284        2017: 12,585         2025 Target: 13,844
   Source: North Dakota Secretary of State’s Office

2-2. Number of total clients served
   2010: 1,183          2019: 953          2025 Target: 1,117
   Source: Small Business Development Center

2-3. Number of companies working with North Dakota Trade Office.
   2018: 60              2025 Target: 90
   Source: North Dakota Trade Office

2-4. Total companies utilizing North Dakota Development Fund. – Since Inception
   2016: 576 companies*    2025 Target: 750 companies
   *Companies are only counted once, even if they come back for multiple investments.
   Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce, North Dakota Development Fund

2-5. Aggregate use of Seed Capital Tax Credits and Angel Fund Tax Credits - Budget contingent
   2016: $9,278,038       2017: $4,717,477       2025 Target: $10.0M
   Source: ND Tax Department

2-6. Total Bank of North Dakota investment through Bank of North Dakota FLEX programs.
   Source: Bank of North Dakota

2-7. Total dollars allocated to the Bank of North Dakota’s beginning entrepreneur Program. - Budget contingent
   Source: Bank of North Dakota

GOAL 3
Establish North Dakota as an accelerator for social entrepreneurship and innovation.

OBJECTIVES
1. Build a state-wide entrepreneurial ecosystem.
• Continue to support efforts that foster innovative ideas and creative businesses that start and stay in North Dakota. Be an accelerator of innovation.
• Support and encourage privately funded seed and early venture capital funds.

2. Enhance and build a value-added agriculture industry

BENCHMARKS

3-1. Number of businesses that complete Innovate ND program. - Budget contingent
2010: 100 2012: 135 2025 Target: 200
Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce, Innovate ND Program

3-2. Increase in the number of communities with entrepreneurial ecosystem.
2018: 5 2025 Target: 25
Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce, CRM tracking

3-3. Increase number of private sector businesses.
2010: 25,741 2016: 32,413 2025 Target: 38,000
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

3-4. Number of Research North Dakota projects in process. – Budget contingent
Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce, CRM tracing

3-5. Increased use of ND Development Fund new venture capital program.
2013-2015 biennium: 15 projects $3.5M
2015 – 2017 biennium: 15 projects $2.49M
2017-2019 biennium: 11 projects $1.38M 2025 Target: 25 projects $4.0M
Source: North Dakota Development Fund

3-6. Number of active Angel Funds offered in North Dakota.
2010: 9 2017: 15 2025 Target: 18
Source: North Dakota Tax Department & North Dakota Department of Commerce, CRM tracking

3-7. Number of APUC projects funded.
2015-2017 biennium: 45 projects $2.66M
2017-2019 biennium: 23 projects $920K* 2025 Target: 54 projects $2.18M**
*biennium has three more funding periods to complete
**Subject to biennial appropriation awarded and 10% increase
Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce

SUPPORTING STRATEGY – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

GOAL 4 Position North Dakota’s image as a key attractor.

OBJECTIVES

1. Recognize perceptions of North Dakota’s image impact our attractiveness for visitors, businesses and residents.
   • Continue to support national marketing and media relations efforts to support North Dakota’s image.
• Work with partners to continue to grow awareness of North Dakota’s tourism and business opportunities.

2. Position North Dakota as the home of vibrant businesses, communities and people.

3. Support activities to help our communities build healthy, financially sustainable, vibrant spaces that attract business, workforce and travelers.

BENCHMARKS

4.1 Number of trips due to paid advertising. - Budget contingent
2016 (media spent $3.2M): 354,000 trips
2025 Target: 400,000 trips
Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce, Tourism Division Research – SMARI study

4.2 Number of national earned media placements tracked due to commerce activity.
2010: 21
2017: 260
2025 Target: 350
Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce, Tourism Division Research.

4.3 Global media’s advertising equivalency for North Dakota stories due to commerce activity.
2014: $1.04M
2017: $3.9M
2025 Target: $5.0M
Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce, Tourism Division Research

4.4 Number of Renaissance Zones in the state.
2009: 46 zones, 103 projects approved and 37 completed projects.
2011: 55 zones, 131 projects approved and 63 completed projects.
2018: 58 zones, 79 projects approved, 46 completed projects.
2025 Target: 61 zones, 91 projects, 53 completed projects.
Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce - CRM

4.5 Number of engaged Main Street communities
2018: 59 - representing 87% of state’s population engaged
2025 Target: 90% of state’s population engaged
Source: North Dakota Department of Commerce - CRM